

A N
A C C O U N T
O F

Mr. Blunts late Book,

ENTITLED,

King William

AND

Queen Mary
CONQUERORS.

O R D E R E D,

By the House of Commons, to be Burnt
by the hand of the common Hangman
on *Wednesday* Morning next, at Ten of
the Clock, in the *Palace-Yard, Westminster.*

The Second Edition.

London, Printed in the Year, 1693.

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Royal Prerogative is a subject of that nice and tender Quality, that 'tis undoubtedly an unpardonable Presumption for any common unhallow'd Pen to touch. 'Tis not the Pretensions of Zeal and Loyalty that takes up the Pen, that can apologize for the Bold Hand that guides it, any more than *Zimri* that held up the *Ark*. If an Examination of the Fountain and Boundaries of *Supreme Power* fall under any Cognizance, 'tis unquestionably in the *Legislative Body*. The opening the Cabinet of such Records belongs to their Hands that keep the Key. If therefore the forementioned Presumption, even simply considered, is an Offence of that high Nature, certainly the Transports of that mad Scribble that outruns all the Bounds of Truth and Reason, and Launches into those unaccountable Mistakes and Frenzies, as utterly to destroy the very Fundamentals of the Constitution, must deserve a double Lash. A more notorious Instance whereof has not been matcht in the late Licentious Pamphlet that has made such a Noise in the Town, of which not only the Author but Licenser have fallen under the just Displeasure of our worthy Patriots in Parliament assembled; a

B

Rebuke

Rebuke so proper from 'em, in a Cause where Their own and the Nations Honour is so highly concerned, and which deserved a Repremand from no Less a Hand than Theirs.

'Tis the Boldness of that hardened Piece that we presume in some few Remarks to examine; a Piece which certainly nothing but Infatuation (Infatuation the Pen-man's best Excuse) could dictate. For besides the egregious Unreasonableness of the whole Foundation of that Discourse, 'tis absolutely impossible the Author in his Right Wits should ever hope that such a subject on such a Basis should please any thing Living, himself only excepted.

For instance; Suppose it in the favourablest Sense, a well-meaning Loyal Harangue, with both these fair Aspects, viz. First, as intended a Court-service to Their Majesties, by fixing the Crown upon their Heads by so formidable a Right and Tenure as That of *Conquest*. And Secondly, Settling the Peoples Obedience in a firm and dutycous Resignation to the Sovereign Authority, founded on that Claim and Possession: Yet both ways has the Author instead

stead of the least gaining his Point, utterly
lost his Aim.

For Example, He is so far from caressing
Their Majesties in it, that 'tis possibly the
courtest and most disrelishing Compliment
(to give it no worse Name) he could have
pickt them out, in writing them **Conque-
rors**. That way of Acquiring a Crown
being the remotest from their Thoughts
from the first Step towards the Revolution,
and through the whole Course of their
Accesses and Advances to the Throne.
The Prince's Declarations all utterly ab-
jured any such Pretension; nor indeed
were the Forces he brought over a com-
petent Strength for the least Shadow of
such an Attempt. And though 'tis true,
several contributing Providences, to our
never to be forgotten Happiness, all con-
spired to enable the Gratitude of *England*
to reward their Champion and Deliverer
with the Presentation of a Diadem; yet I
am certain in his proudest Tryumph (par-
don the Barbarity of that Epithet) he
would have taken it very disdainfully to
have been saluted with the Address of the
Theif

Thief to *Alexander*, viz. to be Entitled that
Greatest of Robbers, however otherwise glo-
rious Name, a *Conqueror*. No; thanks to
Heaven, a softer and gentler Coronation
Glory, *Oblation* and *Gift*, not *Rapine* and
Violence, incircled that Brow.

Non Rapit Imperium Vis tua, sed Recipit.

And if after all this, thls doughty Pen-
man has endeavoured to lay so ungrateful
a Load upon the Royal Shoulders, he has
made the most mistaken Piece of Work on't
that Folly and Ignorance could ever be
guilty of, at least if intended as a Favour.

Nor indeed is his intended popular Ser-
vice herein a much more welcome Obliga-
tion, For

First, Here's the whole Glory of *England*
totally eclips'd for ever, when a poor hand-
ful of 14000 Men, such wonderful Victors,
could make so intire a Subjection of the
little-hearted *Great Britain* with so much
Ease, and so small Trouble.

'Tis

'Tis possible if such a Feather would stick in
 the *Hollanders* Caps, I there would not
 want that Vanity in some of our *Hogan Neigh-*
bours, that partly in Respect and Favour to
 their Royal *State-Holder*, and a little in pride
 to themselves, would perk up and plume
 with such a Title, As *Third William*, the *Se-*
cond Conqueror. And yet as matters stand,
 so much to the contrary, and so far from such
 a Thought, I fancy, there is not the poorest
Dutchman, even in his very *Adel*, but has
 long since learnt better *English*; though our
 Enthusiastick *Englishman* this sober *Anti-*
thony has pleased so wilfully and so strangely
 to forget himself, and his Mother Tongue.
 This *State-Casnist* little considers, what a
 Blow he has given to the whole *English* Ar-
 my, provided they are of that opinion as to
 joyne with him in Glorifying their Majesties
 with his Attribute of Conquerors. For their
 Martiall Memorials will furnish but a poor
 homely Record, viz. That 25000 not one of
 them durst strike a stroke, inay, so many of
 them run off to the Prince of *Orange*; for all

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this

this Submission and Defection, to a Conqueror, is downright Dread and Terror, no Kindness and Inclination, which are only due to Guests and Friends. 'Tis well for him, that the Parliament by way of Civill Magistracy have taken him into Consideration; for were he under Martiall Judgment, I would not run his Gantlet, for twice the honor of being Author of his Banishment. Nay the Parliament themselves are not much in his Debt, I mean as to any over great kindness owing for Civilities received from him; for he has made bold to put a damnable Sturre upon the whole Conception of England: For at his rate of Faith, or Force rather; (for we hope he believes better things) they were all very impertinently busy, in bestowing of Imperial Crowns upon the House of *Orange*, when God knows they were his own before. For if he claimed by Conquest, having before that time the whole Power, every Fort, Town, Stengh, &c. thro all *England* in his hands; and consequently the Universal submission of the Nation in yield-

yielding all to this to him, the whole Royal Regalia of Conquest being then already his own, the Conventiſonary Donation was but a Trifle and Mimicry. Nay, Their Majesties themselves are a little overſeen (if like our Author I may make ſe bold with them) in Commemning their Anniverſary of their Reign from the birth of *Felimon*. In ſhort, the Confuſions ariſing from his Hypotheſis are too numerous to recite. All that we can think worth Commendation in it is, that he has made His Maſteſty doubly a Conqueror. For Fiſt belike he Conquered King *James*, and then himſelf. For notwithstanding all the peculiar claims and priviledges of Conqueſt, he has intirely waived them all, and has ſat down contented with a plain *Engliſh* limited Monarchy, without aſſuming the leaſt Jewel of Conqueſt for adorning his Diadem.

'Tis true our Author bound himſelf to a more modeſt Circle in the notion of Conqueſt, his poſition being confined to this narrow Compaſs, viz. That King William Conquered

ed.

ed King James, but not the Nation; and that therefore he acquired a Title to all the Rights of King James, but not to any Rights of the Nation. That King James had a Right to Govern this Nation; but by being Conquered he lost this Right, and in short, King William won it. The business therefore of this short Paper is to fathom and examine the depth of this Position, being indeed the Grand Thesis of the whole Book.

Now to begin with the Incongruities in the very Foundation of his Discomfort For to Conquer a King and all his Rights, and those Rights being granted to him as his Government of his Kingdom; and yet to make that distinct and wholly separate from the Rights of the Nation, is so near to a contradiction that nothing possibly can be clearer, the Right of Governing over the People being at least their highest and dearest Concern, and the Conquest of that Right, and the Particulars of Power annexed to such a Conquest, being no undoubted of their tenderest and nearest Consideration.

Well

Well, as great as it was, King *William* conquer'd all this, which in every vulgar Apprehension, was conquering as much as King *James* had to lose; a very fair Prize, let me tell ye, for by Birth-right, and all the ties of Succession, his Right extended to the Supreme Administration of three Realms, as far as the Land-Marks of Law reach'd in the Rule and Sway of a limited Monarchy: A goodly Conquest, the Peoples unconquer'd Rights remaining, being only Duty and Obedience to their Sovereign Conqueror accordingly, which how far agreeing with the Circumstances of Their Majesties Accession to the Crown will soon be examined.

If King *James* his Desertion upon all the Premises suggested by this Author, viz. That, seeing the Peoples Universal Inclination for, an Adherence to the Prince of Orange, Theirs and his Armies total Defection and Revolt, the Forces, Strengths, Garrisons, all things committed and yielded up to the Prince, and consequently, all the Regalia of Conquest invested in him; and that thereupon, looking upon himself as a van-

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quish'd

quisht Prince, he fled before the Conqueror, left London, & retired to *Feverham* in order to make his escape from Subjection; and being there taken Prisoner, attempted, and succeeded in his second escape at *Rochester*, &c. If all these Premises, I say, Inevitable our present Sovereign to the Title of *Conquerour*; by the same parallel Reasons urged by this Author, I will as strongly prove, that there never was a Change from the *Lancastrian* to the *York*, or from the *York* to the *Lancastrian* Line, in all the Successions from the Conquest, but every such Change equally might challenge the claim of Conquest.

For first, we must take it for granted, (and therein our Author agrees with us) that every possessing *Yorkist*, or *Lancastrian* Prince was lawfully King, more especially if his Right was confirm'd by several unbroken Successions in the same Descent and Family. And if so, undoubtedly, whatever contesting Dispute lay between the red and white Rose, the Non-possessing Family had all their Pretensions swallow'd, and silenced in the Possessors prevailing Interest and Title.

Nearupon

Hereupon, supposing the possessing *Lancastrian*-Prince dies, as soon as the Breath is out of his Body, the whole Regalia, the Imperial Claims are all, *ipso momento*, in the nex *Lancastrian* Heir: (for in that Sense the King never dies) and therefore, such Heir as rightfully King, upon the starting up of a *York* Branch into the 'Throne,' which cannot be done, but as the Prince of *Orange's* Case, with the total Bent and *Byass* of the Peoples Inclination or Concession at least (for what Motives or Reasons perswaded, it matters not), Here's the *Lancastrian* Right Heir, and as Heir, now rightful King of *England* dispossess: And whether the Case exactly quadrate in all particulars with that of King *James*, viz. That the thus Dispossess Abdicates, flies the Kingdom, or absconds in it, at least, he utterly runs before the prevailing Prince, and *Volens Nolens*, quits all Claim, to the possessing Arm of Power, perhaps more intirely in that point than King *James* has done. Nay, all this too (to parallel Circumstances yet a little nearer) possibly after tougher & longer Disputes than the

the *Two Battles* urged by the Author for *Preliminaries* to the *Prince's Victory*, viz. *The Skirmish at Wincanton, where Thirty of the Prince of Orange's Men defeated Seventy Horse, and Fifty Dragoons under Sarsfield; and the other at Reading, where another Party of the Prince's kill'd Fifty of King James's Dragoons.* Now, I say, if such Circumstances as these are enough to make the Alienation of the Crown a Conquest, how many Crown'd Heads since *First William* must write Conquerours! Nay, not in *England* only; for the whole *Chronicles* of all Nations would be swell'd with *Revolutions* that with full as much Reason would fall under that Denomination. For instance, The present King of *Portugal* may with full as much Right justify the Title of Conquerour, his elder Brother his Predecessor, being unfortunately Delirious, and thereby guilty of *Misgovernment*, was by the People and the States of the Kingdom, removed, and expell'd from the Throne, and the younger Brother planted in his Seat, and not only made Possessor of his Brother's Kingdom, but of his Brother's Wife the Queen too.

And

And what matters the distinction between King *James* and the *Portugal* King's Misgovernment,, one through a crazed, and the other a Religious Frenzy, let it suffice both of them were laid aside, both their Subjects abandoned and deserted them, both were equally forced to Abdicate, and consequently both their Successors might claim an equal Title of *Conquerours*, only with a little Advantage on the *Portugal's* side: For had our Author been his Historian, he must have added one little Jem more to his Diadem, then he has done to King *William's*, for as belike King *William* only conquered King *James*, the King of England, but not the People of England, the *Portugal* Conquerour, in the like Conquest, out-shot him a whole Bows length, for he conquered both King of *Portugal* and Queen too.

In short, the extravagant Follies, and ridiculous Absurdities from such an Hypothesis would be endless, for granting King *William* was justly entituled Conquerour from that Hour he had King *James* in his Power, under Restraint and Subjection, as our Author terms it; by the same parity of Power and Subjection, there's never a civil Broyl or most unnatural Rebellion, no instance too many, where Kings have been often in the prevailing Subjects Power, but during that Mastery the Subjects, by his way of Reasoning, might stile themselves *Royal Conquerours*: For though as our Author distinguishes in our present Sovereign's Case, by the long recited Plea of Justice in his entring the Kingdom with an Armed Power; yet, in the forementioned Rebellious In-

the Prevalence of the Sword, whether in a

right or wrong Cause, may equally pretend to *Conquest*: This I am certain the *French King* makes no such Distinction, and his very Enemies are pleas'd to write him Conquerour even in the vilest of his Triumphs; the very Towns and Acquisitions he has bought with his Levidores, and Conquest at best, how strong soever a Title, is not the most sparkling Crown Jewel:

But to leave this remoter Discourse, I shall come to one intire and utter Confutation of our Author's whole Chain of Argument. The Prince of *Orange* was not properly the Conquerour of *King James* even in his own Restriction and Limitation of Conquest, viz. *The Conquerour of King James, but not of England.*

For Example, after *King James* had look't upon himself as a vanquisht and an abandoned Prince, as he terms it; and therefore, whither out of shame of standing a too critical Enquiry into his Male Administration, or detected Intreagues, refus'd the proffer'd Retreat of *Hamm* House; or out of any other Fear or Motive, deserted his Kingdom, and fled, and escaped into *France*; yet even then was not the Prince of *Orange*, in his highest Power, any way *King James's* Conquerour; for instead of his being Conquer'd, it then lay in the Breast of the whole People and Community of *England*, in Convention assembled, to have recall'd him back again, (that is, if so minded) to have treated him still, as King of *England*, to have received and refixt him again on his Throne on such and such Terms and Articles of Security, for better Administration, and future Amendment, if any such could have been hoped or expected, and the Prince all the

the while (though invited over by them, as their Deliverer) so far from claiming *Conquest*, or being his own Chooser, by Vertue of any such Pretension; that on the contrary, it lay wholly in the Peoples Breast, how far their Gratitude would reward their Protector of their Religion and Liberties.

So that upon the up-shot, If King *James* was *Conquer'd*, 'twas by his own fearful or wilful running away from his Kingdom, whereby the People Seizing his quitted, abandon'd, and relinquisht Crown into their own then Rightfull Possession, by such Disertion and Relinquishment, made a generous and grateful Present of it to their most Honour'd Champion, then fully and lawfully empowr'd to accept so Glorious a Gift; insomuch, that if, according to our Author's Notion, there be any thing of *Conquer'ship* in the Case, to Humour our Author's Fancy, it lies between King *James*, and the Victorious Convention; for King *William* and Queen *Mary* have the least, or rather no part at all of any such Claim or Challenge. And if there were any such thing as *Conquest* in the Case, alas, the *Conquering* blow was not given till the *Convention* was pleas'd to declare, the Imperial Crown of *England* was for such & such Causes devolved into theirs and their only Hands, and as such they were pleas'd to dispose it, where and to whom, as their indisputable Will and Pleasure seem'd Meet and Reasonable.

So that, to draw Matters towards a Conclusion, our Author has involved himself in the most unaccountable Labyrinth and Confusion, from his Chimerical distinction of Conquering King *James*, but not the Kingdom of

England, which strictly examin'd, is little more than just nothing. For, How did he Conquer King *James*? Yes, he frighted his Person out of his Kingdom; (that is, if his own conscious terrifying Faults did not do it for him) but as to his Crown, Title, Kingship, Royalty, those he conquer'd not; all those were purely and wholly the Concession and Grant of the People, and no ways his own Atchivement or Acquisition. So that, to sum up the whole, in stiling our Gracious Sovereigns, King *William* and Queen *Mary* Conquerours in our present Circumstances, he has given them a Title of neither Honour nor Service, for they hold both by a stronger and fairer Claim, derived from the Original Fountain of Power, the universal Donation of the People under the Possession and Devolution aforesaid, &c.

And thus this unhappily started Notion of Conquest-Tenure must not only be an ungrateful Theme to the Nation, as so notoriously derogating from the Glory of their own Act and Deed, the aforesaid Donation of the Crown; but likewise, be a nauseous and irksome Apprehension to the *English* Peoples Constitution and Kidney, who are not possibly oversfond of such a Qualification of Imperial Majesty reigning over them; and therefore, our Author has very unfortunately managed so untowardly an Argument, intended for the indearing and inducing a more Zealous Devotion and Obedience to their Majesties, from so weak and so unattractive an Invitation, as the Title of Conquerours.

This Gentleman, take the whole Mass of his Discourse together, I must do him that right, has a very honest

honest Meaning. He has made it his Business to assert the Right of their present Majesties in as vigorous a Manner as the warmest Zeal and Affection could Inspire, has throughly evinced from his Positions laid down.

That King James hath totally lost his Right to these Kingdoms; and therefore, if he comes again with an Army, he is to be looked upon by the Subjects with no other Eyes than any other Invader, but is to be resisted by them. Our Fleets and Armies, without any scruple of Conscience to weaken their Hands, may and ought to fight as becomes Valiant Men, in the defence of their present Sovereigns, and their Countrey; and that not only against the French King, but likewise against the late King James, if he should come along with a Fleet, or head an Army against us.

But after all, as there is no occasion or want of the Claim of Conquest, either to strengthen their Majesties Interest, or weaken the Pretence of his Enemies, under what Name or Class whatever. All this Duty to the one, and Resistance against the other, are equally, if not more strongly enforced from that softer and gentler Royal Right, invested and lodged in Their present Majesties, from the fore-mention'd clearer Fountain of Power.

E I N I S.